LUKE.
HANK.
SHALL WE DO THIS?
THE RAFT. MAXIMUM SECURITY FEDERAL PENITENTIARY. OFF THE COAST OF MANHATTAN.
DAMN RIGHT.
I CAN MAKE WOMEN DO ANYTHING I WANT. LITTLE GIRLS, TOO. YOU, REDHEAD, WHEN I GET OUT, I'LL COME LOOKING FOR YOU...
HUNGRY... PLEASE... THEY LOOK SO TENDER...
UM... MR. CAGE, ARE YOU POSITIVE THEY CAN'T GET OUT?
YEAH. I MEAN, LET'S BE REAL, THIS PLACE KIND OF HAS A REPUTATION AS A REVOLVING DOOR FOR THESE FREAKS.
THAT WAS BEFORE.

AVENGERS ACADEMY

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Wow. That's all I can say about the volume of mail that's poured in since issue #2 hit just last week…and "thank you!" All of us on the creative team really appreciate so many of you taking the time to write. Now let's get to your letters!

Well, a marvelous first issue. McKone's art is even better since his recent *Amazing Spider-Man* issues. Gage's choices for instructors are perfect. Trainees' personalities are distinct and interesting.

Looking forward to reading more. Once again, great read.

Sophea Uk
Salem, OR

Sophea, yours was the very first letter we received…so, even though you didn't know about the letter column naming contest, you win a prize! Send your mailing address to us and I'll send you something. Now let's take off to the Great White North…

Loved, loved, loved *Avengers Academy* #2. I'm really enjoying what I hope is a continuing rotation of narrators amoung the younger cast (although adding the faculty to the narration down the road would be fascinating). Finesse getting the spotlight was perfect. She stuck out to me the most from #1 as a character I wanted to get to know better. I loved her inner struggle to relate to the others as thought it were alien. She reminded me a lot of Temperance Brennan from "Bones".

Her speculation that she's Taskmaster's daughter? Wooo! I'd love to see that be explored some more. A clash between the two would be brilliant.

But for me the best part was the documentary on Pietro. You manged to hit the key parts of his life and incorporate them into this current story and series. I was THRILLED when you quoted his Post Office/ATM story virtually verbatim from the classic *X-Factor #87*. I know Finesse would pick up on the Skrull lie but to use it the way she did? AMAZING!

Can't wait to see where you go with the rest of the cast. Hopefully Mettle is up for narration soon.

Brian Edwards
Toronto, Canada

Mettle narrates our very next issue! And thanks for bringing up something I am red-faced about failing to mention in issue #2, which is that (as Doug Michel also points out) the bit comparing being Quicksilver to standing in a slow-moving line comes from the classic *X-Factor #87*, written by the great Peter David! (And drawn by someone whose name I forget… Joe something…couldn't have been important.) That remains the best insight into Pietro I've ever seen. So thanks and apologies to PAD!

And you're right, each of our first six issues will be narrated by a different student, to help you get to know them. As for the faculty, they'll eventually get their turns in the spotlight…like Hank Pym in #7!

Hello! First of all, I'm so excited that *Avengers Academy* decided to include a letter page. There's just something about a letter page that's more appealing than message boards, Facebook, etc, when it comes to sharing ideas about a comic.

Secondly, I think *Avengers Academy* is one of the most interesting Marvel titles out right now. I can see how some of these new Avenger students might become really great super heroes in the future. But, for me, what is even more exciting is the idea that some of the students might still turn into super villains. You can't save everyone, right?

I can't wait for the next issue. Keep up the good work!

Katie Tran
West Lafayette, IN

Thanks, Katie! I agree, there's something special about a letters page. And I think you hit on what makes this book interesting, for me, anyway, and why we wanted to use new characters for the cadets…it's entirely possible some of these kids will become villains. In fact I am going on record as saying one or more of them definitely will.

We'd also like to recognize those who wrote but whose letters we didn't have room for:

Tyler Willits, Derek Gruchy, Alejandro Omidsalar (Mettle's name was changed from Fortress because it turns out there's a character called Fortress at another publisher), Andrew Parsley, Kyle Voltti, Jacob Spiwak (who is 14 and says he really connects to the characters…thanks for making me feel like I'm not completely out of touch, Jacob!), Bradford Graham, Michael Rudolph, Erik Weinfurter, Will Lund, Mike Workman, Robert Tacopina, Drake Holman, David N., Magnus, Chip Snyder, Trent Deckard (who's been collecting Avengers comics almost as long as me), Elizabeth Cash (Butterball is never far from my mind), Khalil Beckwith, Brent Ecenbarger, Scott Morse, Enrique Munoz Jr. (thanks for the well thought out critique!), Dan Hockaday, Robert Helms, Barry Barrows, Greg Waite, Robert Werley, Brian Springer, and Dakota Byrd, who gives well-deserved props to Mike McKone and Jeromy Cox for their gorgeous work! Rest assured we read and appreciated all your comments… so keep 'em coming!

And now for the moment you've been waiting for…the winner of the letter column title contest! There were some great entries, like Peer Pressure, Academy Awards, and Extra Credit, but my favorite…and I'm showing my bias as a child of the '80s here…is: AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL! I like the idea of a letters column as a special feature, and it takes place after "school," or the issue itself. So, John Minaldi, send us your mailing address and a signed #1 is on its way! See you all next month!

--Christos Gage

NEXT!

"SCARED STRAIGHT" PART TWO, OUR *THUNDERBOLTS* CROSSOVER!

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